

# Chapter 291 An Act Permitting a Charge For Directory Assistance and Improving Telecommunications Within the Commonwealth.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** The first paragraph of section 18 of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "police," in line 13, the following words:-the state-wide emergency telecommunication board.

**SECTION 2.** Said chapter 6A is hereby further amended by inserting after section 18 the following six sections:-

- Section 18A
- Section 18B
- Section 18C
- Section 18D
- Section 18E
- Section 18F

**SECTION 3.** Section 19 of chapter 159 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 11, the words "residential customers or".

**SECTION 4.** Said chapter 159 is hereby further amended by striking out Section 19A, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

- Section 19A

**SECTION 5.** Chapter 166 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 14A, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

- Section 14A

**SECTION 6.** Said chapter 166 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 15D the following section:-

- Section 15E

**SECTION 7.** Revenue received by a telephone company under a directory assistance charging plan authorized by section nineteen A of chapter one

hundred and fifty-nine of the General Laws shall be used to offset the costs prudently incurred by said telephone company associated with the provision of services pursuant to sections eighteen A to eighteen F, inclusive, of chapter six A of the General Laws, section fourteen A and section fifteen E of chapter one hundred and sixty-six of the General Laws and the costs prudently incurred in providing the services under said sections eighteen A to eighteen F, inclusive, of said chapter six A, said section fourteen A and said section fifteen E of said chapter one hundred and sixty-six shall be allocated to the residents and business ratepayers in the same proportion that their respective use of the systems bears to the total use of the systems provided for under said sections eighteen A to eighteen F, inclusive, of said chapter six A, said section fourteen A and said section fifteen E of said chapter one hundred and sixty-six; provided, however, that the revenues derived from said directory assistance charging plan that exceed the telephone company's prudently incurred costs to provide and maintain the facilities and maintain the facilities and services required under said sections shall be used to reduce monthly rates for residential ratepayers in a manner and as determined by the department at the time of residence directory assistance charging plan is implemented.

**SECTION 8.** Each municipality shall, not later than twelve months following the effective date of this act, and except as otherwise provided in this section, certify in writing to the secretary of the commonwealth whether it accepts the provisions of this act. Each municipality which certifies its acceptance of this act shall receive enhanced 911 services as defined in this act, and the benefits of enhanced 911 network features and network components, including at least one public safety answering point, and any other enhanced 911 network features that may be made available by the statewide emergency telecommunications board. Municipalities that exercise this option shall be responsible for the staffing and operation of the public safety answering point terminal equipment provided to it in accordance with terms and conditions specified by the board. If a municipality decides to accept the provision this act later than twelve months from the effective date of this act, shall, in addition to other requirements that may be established by the board, be responsible for the cost of purchasing or otherwise acquiring and maintaining the primary, and, where applicable, secondary public safety answering point

**SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect in a city or town which accepts its provisions in accordance with section eight.